

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application as amended is requested. Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to presenting these claims in one or more continuing or divisional applications. Claims 25-38 have been added. Claims 25-38 contain no new matter, support for these claims can be found throughout the specification.

Rejection of claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wagner et al. (WO 97/49394). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to claims 25-38.

While Wagner, et al. describe a range for binders, Wagner clearly teaches in the examples that when the binder is microcrystalline cellulose, the amount of binder required is between less than 30% and specifically 21%. Thus, the required amount of microcrystalline cellulose taught by Wagner does not overlap with the amount required by Applicants. Thus, claims 25-38 are not obvious over Wagner et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits the Application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests early notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7831


Cynthia H. Zhang
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 53,827

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